

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A food stirrer for cooking vessels comprising:

a housing having a body with an internal cavity;

5 a drive mechanism in the housing;

a power source in the housing connected to the drive mechanism;

a stirrer paddle;

a paddle shaft connected to the stirrer paddle and connected to the drive mechanism; and

10 a pair of spring-biased support arms with first ends pivotally connected to the housing, and second ends having a contact member, wherein the food stirrer is seatable on a cooking vessel having an outside and a top rim wherein the contact member contacts the top rim of the cooking vessel when the food stirrer is seated on the cooking vessel with the contact member biased against the rim at the outside of the vessel.

2. The food stirrer of claim 1 wherein the pair of spring-biased support arms are connected to opposite sides of the

20 body of the housing.

3. The food stirrer of claim 1 wherein the paddle shaft is located substantially centrally on the body of the housing and has an axis that is substantially vertical when the food stirrer is

seated on the cooking vessel.

- sub a1
4. The food stirrer of claim 3 wherein the axis of the stirrer shaft defines a central axis and the spring-bias support arms each have a pivotal axis at their first end displaced from the central axis.

5. The food stirrer of claim 4 wherein the pair of spring-biased support arms are connected to opposite sides of the body of the housing wherein the pivotal axis of each spring-biased support arm is displaced an equal and opposite distance from the central axis.

6. The food stirrer of claim 5 wherein the spring-biased support arms each have a coil spring with a first end connected to the arm and a second end connected to the housing.

7. The food stirrer of claim 1 wherein the stirrer paddle has a hub with opposed blades.

8. The food stirrer of claim 7 wherein the blades are flexible.

9. The food stirrer of claim 8 wherein the blades each have a tip and the paddle has a diameter from blade tip to blade tip that is adjustable by bowing of the blades.

10. The food stirrer of claim 9 wherein the blades have an outer portion and an inner portion and the width of the outer portion is greater than the inner portion.

Sub a2
5 11. A food stirrer for cooking vessels having a top rim comprising:
a housing;
a stirrer paddle rotably connected to the housing;
drive means mounted in the housing for rotating the stirrer paddle;
support arms connected to the housing having ends;
means for extending and retracting the ends from and toward the housing;
bias means connected to the housing and support arms for biasing the support arms toward retracting the ends, wherein the ends of the support arms have means for engaging the top rim of the cooking vessel.

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20 12. The food stirrer of claim 11 wherein the means for extending and retracting the ends from and toward the housing comprise pivots wherein the arms are pivotally connected to the housing.

Sub a3
13. The food stirrer of claim 12 wherein the bias means comprises a spring mechanism.

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~~13~~ 14. The food stirrer of claim ~~13~~ wherein the means for
engaging the top rim of the cooking vessel comprise depending posts
mounted to the ends of the support arms.

5 15. The food stirrer of claim 11 wherein the drive means
includes a drive motor and gear train, the stirrer paddle having a
paddle shaft with the gear train connected to the paddle shaft, and
the drive motor having a power source.

16. The food stirrer of claim 15 wherein the power
source comprises a rechargeable battery.

17. The food stirrer of claim 15 wherein the stirrer
paddle is separable from the paddle shaft.

18. The food stirrer of claim 17 wherein the paddle
shaft is vertically adjustable in the housing.

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~~14~~ 19. The food stirrer of claim ~~14~~ wherein the ends of the
15 support arms include handles for lifting the food stirrer.